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Amphill Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

for the

YEAR 1948

of the

*Medical Officer of Health*

and

*Sanitary Inspector*

H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

T. A. HAWTIN, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Rural District for the year 1948.

This was a memorable year in the history of the Health Services of this country. The National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation on 5th July, 1948, the working of which is being observed with so much interest by other countries.

Through this Act, the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board assumed responsibility for providing hospital accommodation, including that for cases of infectious disease, occurring in your District, and the County Council became the Authority for diphtheria immunisation.

This year is also of particular interest to workers in the field of Public Health as it marks the centenary of the appointment of the first full time Medical Officer of Health.

In the year under review the health, as indicated by the various statistics for the District, compared favourably with that of recent years. There was no undue incidence of infectious disease.

I welcome this opportunity of thanking the officials of the District and the staff for their helpful co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. C. SUTTON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# Ampthill Rural District Council

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1948

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY :—

1. *Medical Officer of Health*.—H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
2. *Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital at Steppingley*.—W. R. VAN LANGENBERG, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. London. (Part time Officer).  
—Until 5th July, 1948.
3. *Surveyor*.—C. A. LEWIS, A.M. Inst. Mun. E., M.R. SAN. I.
4. *Sanitary Inspector*.—T. A. HAWTIN, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
5. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*.—W. J. FOLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
6. *Matron of the Isolation Hospital at Steppingley*.—MISS E. C. BARDELL.  
—Until 5th July, 1948.
7. *Housing Inspector*.—W. W. GILLET.

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,553
Population—Census for 1948 (estimated mid-year)	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,990
Census for 1931	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,483
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1948	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,639
Rateable Value	-	-	-	-	-	-	£102,356
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	£426/9/4

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The light land in the Maulden, Clophill, Flitwick area is good market gardening soil, and this is the main occupation within these villages. The Marston Valley and London Brick Company are the largest employers in the brick area around Marston, Ridgmont, Cranfield, Lidlington and Houghton Conquest.

In these and all areas other forms of agriculture claim a large share of workers, and there are the Bovril and Ebonite Powder Works at Houghton Conquest ; Production Tool Factory at Harlington ; and Brush Works and Timber Yard at Flitwick, also giving employment.

The National Institute of Agricultural Engineering transferred to Silsoe from Yorkshire continues to employ a large staff, some housed in prefabricated bungalows at Flitwick and Westoning.

There are good bus and train services from the larger villages to the adjacent towns of Luton and Bedford, and many travel daily to their work from this district to the town factories.

Unemployment during the year has been negligible.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	389	204	185	{ Birth rate 18.5 per 1000 of resident population.
	{ Illegitimate	17	10	7	
	Total	406	214	192	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	9	6	3	{ Birth rate 21.68 per 1000 Births (live and still).
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	Total	9	6	3	
Deaths	- -	245	125	120	{ Death rate 11.15 per 1000 resident population.

Birth rate for England and Wales is 17.9

Death rate for England and Wales is 10.8

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

						<i>Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births</i>
No. 29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	-	-	0		0.0
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes	-	-	-	0	0.0

## MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE FOR ENGLAND &amp; WALES

Abortion with Sepsis	—	0.11	per 1000 (live and still) births.
Abortion without Sepsis	—	0.05	" " " " " "
Puerperal Infections	—	0.13	" " " " " "
Others	—	0.73	" " " " " "

# INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths under 1 year of age :—

All infants—10.

*i.e.* death rate per 1,000 live births—24.63.

Legitimate Infants—8.

*i.e.* death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births—20.56.

Illegitimate Infants—2.

*i.e.* death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births—117.64.

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
„	„	Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	0
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	0
„	„	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	1
„	„	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	0
„	„	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	0

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. .. .	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	0	0
Whooping Cough .. .. .	0	0
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. .. .	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	0	0
Influenza .. .. .	1	0
Measles .. .. .	0	0
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .. .. .	0	0
Acute infective encephalitis .. .. .	0	0
Cancer of b : cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F) .. .. .	2	6
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	3	1
Cancer of Breast .. .. .	0	2
Cancer of all other sites .. .. .	12	18
Diabetes .. .. .	3	3
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions .. .. .	14	14
Heart Disease .. .. .	35	41
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .. .. .	5	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	4	3
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	0
Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	3	1
Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	5	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) .. .. .	1	0
Appendicitis .. .. .	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases .. .. .	4	1
Nephritis .. .. .	2	6
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis .. .. .	0	0
Other Maternal Causes .. .. .	0	0
Premature Birth .. .. .	5	0
Congenital Malformations, Birth injuries and infantile Diseases .. .. .	3	0
Suicide .. .. .	2	1
Road Traffic Accidents .. .. .	1	1
Other Violent Causes .. .. .	3	2
All other Causes .. .. .	12	12
All Causes .. .. .	125	120



## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Town Hall, Luton.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g. throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the District have been acquainted of these facilities. It is intended that this Service shall in the future deal with all Public Health work of his nature.

The following examinations were made during the year :—

Nasal swabs	..	..	..	..	..	2
Throat „	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pleural Fluid	..	..	..	..	..	1
Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	6
Urine	..	..	..	..	..	6
Blood	..	..	..	..	..	1

Under existing arrangements up to the 5th July, the following examinations were made by the Bedford County Hospital :—

Throat swab	..	..	..	..	..	1
-------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

### 2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are re-imbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

### 3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the County Council became responsible for the provision of this Service, and from 5th July, the nurses and midwives in the District became the employees of the County Council.

Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

Only minor alterations have been necessary in the staff and nursing districts. The nurses are qualified both in nursing and midwifery, acting as nurse midwives and with the exception of Nurse McEnroe, each has a motor car.

The Nurses are distributed as follows:—

Aspley Guise ..	Nurse Davies*†	Marston Moretaine	Nurse Alcock*†
Husborne Crawley ..	" "	Milbrook ..	" Holmwood*†
Aspley Heath ..	" "	Maulden ..	" Wagstaff*†
Woburn Sands ..	" Faulkner*†	Clophill ..	" "
Cranfield, Salford	" "	Tingrith ..	" Faulkner*†
and Hulcote ..	" Knight**†	Woburn, Eversholt,	
Silsoe ..	" Butcher*†	Ridgmont and	
Flitton ..	" "	Milton Bryan	" "
Flitwick ..	" Kearns*†	Harlington, West-	
Steppingley ..	" "	oning, Pulloxhill	
Gravenhurst ..	" McEnroe*†	Higham Gobion,	
Shillington ..	" "	Silsoe & Flitton	" Butcher*†
Lidlington ..	" Knight**†	Houghton Conquest	" Gandy**†

\*\* — S.R.N.

\* — State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.

† — S.C.M.

### 4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

#### *Infant Welfare Clinics:—*

Amphill Public Assistance Institution	Friday, 2 p.m.
Cranfield Memorial Hall .. ..	Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Marston Methodist School .. ..	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Ridgmont Village Hall .. ..	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Woburn Town Hall .. ..	Alternate Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Shillington Congregational School Room	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Haynes Church Hall .. ..	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.

#### *Ante-Natal Clinic:—*

Shillington Congregational School Room, alternate Thursdays,

10 a.m. to 12 noon.

#### *Veneral Disease Clinic:—*

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
Bedford County Hospital (Amphill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4—8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6.0 p.m. Wednesday, 5.0—7 p.m. Thursday, 6.0 p.m. Friday, 3.0—5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance: Wednesdays, 5.0—7.0 p.m., Fridays, 3.0—5.0 p.m.



*Chest Clinic :—*

The new Clinic opened on 27th November, 1947, at :—  
St. Peter's Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Monday, 10 a.m.—12 noon. Contacts (both sexes).  
Monday, 2 p.m.—3.30 p.m. Pneumothorax Refills.  
Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.—11.30 a.m. Women and Children only.  
Thursday, 9.30 a.m.—11.30 a.m. Men only.  
Friday, 10 a.m.—11.30 a.m. Pneumothorax Refills.  
Consultant Physician in attendance alternate Wednesdays.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

Hospital	Situation	Purpose	No. of Beds	Medical Staff	Manage- ment.
Isolation Hospital -	Steppingley	Infectious Diseases	44	1	} Bedford Group Hospital Management Committee
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	Mogerhanger	Tuberculosis	72	1	
Beds. County Hospital	Bedford	General, Medical & Surgical, Maternity & Children. -	174		
St. Peter's Hospital -	Bedford	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children	368	2	
St. George's Hospital -	Ampthill	Chronic Sick	80	1	C.C.
Children's Home -	Kempston	Children	45	1	C.C.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act 1890. Part III. Sec. 28.

Public Health Amendment Act 1907.

Part II, Secs. 15, 16, 17 (Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick and Maulden).

Part IV, Secs. 53, 54 (Whole District).

## BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Building Byelaws.

Water Regulations and Charges.

Slaughter Houses.

## RAINFALL.

The station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain gauge is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude  $52^{\circ} 1' N$ . Longitude  $0^{\circ} 35' W$ .

## WOBURN.

	Total.	No. of days with .01 in. or more.
January ..	4.26	25
February ..	0.91	12
March ..	0.66	6
April ..	1.46	12
May ..	3.76	14
June ..	2.53	19
July ..	2.25	10
August ..	4.42	13
September ..	2.38	11
October ..	2.27	12
November ..	1.21	15
December ..	2.25	18
Total ..	<u>28.36</u>	<u>167</u>

## RAINFALL IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Woburn.	England & Wales.
1939	29.89	40.3
1940	27.60	35.6
1941	25.52	33.8
1942	19.49	35.9
1943	19.09	33.4
1944	22.33	35.3
1945	20.65	33.27
1946	28.24	41.6
1947	18.46	35.23
1948	28.36	37.62

On August 2nd there was one of the heaviest falls of rain ever recorded here in one day, amounting to 2.39 inches.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, for supplying me with the above rainfall.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied from three sources :—

1. Aspley Guise Water Works—supplying twenty-one parishes.  
It is obtained from a green-sand source by bore-holes and chlorinated before delivery to the mains.
2. Ampthill U.D.C. Water Works at Clophill—supplying three parishes.  
This is also obtained from a green-sand source by bore-holes and is softened, chlorinated and filtered before delivery to the mains.
3. The Duke of Bedford's Water Works at Husborne Crawley—supplying two parishes.

All the mains, with the exception of those in connection with supply (3), are owned by the Council and the only parishes not so supplied are Higham Gobion, Potsgrove and Battlesden. These are small parishes with a total estimated joint population of 185, but the Council has the matter constantly under review and will give a supply when conditions permit.

The results of chemical examinations are available only for supplies (1) and (2) and are as follows :—

ASPLEY GUISE SUPPLY (Domestic tap, Marston), taken 9th August, 1948. Chemical results in parts per million.

Reaction pH .....	5.8
Hardness temporary.....	30
,, permanent .....	35
,, total .....	65
Free ammonia .....	0.038
Albuminoid ammonia .....	0.038
Nitrogen as nitrates .....	4.8
,, ,, nitrites .....	less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed in 4hrs. at 27°C. ....	0.00
Metals—Iron .....	0.07

AMPTHILL U.D.C. SUPPLY (Domestic tap) taken 20th October, 1948. Chemical results in parts per 100,000.

Nitrogen ammoniacal .....	0.004
,, albuminoid .....	0.002
,, nitrous .....	none.
,, nitric .....	0.011
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins .....	0.010
,, ,, 4 hrs. ....	0.017
Chlorine .....	3.10
,, expressed as Sodium Chloride .....	5.12
Total solid matter dried at 100°C. ....	30.0
Hardness, temporary .....	13.0
,, permanent .....	6.5
Metals.....	trace of iron.

The results of these chemical examinations, together with those of Quarterly samples taken for bacteriological examination—none of which contained coliform bacilli in 100 c.c.'s—indicated a pure and wholesome water supply, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The water from the Ampthill U.D.C. is moderately hard and that from Aspley Guise has a plumbo-solvent action in view of which the use of lead piping is not allowed in the area supplied by Aspley Guise Water Works.

The supply was also adequate in quantity.

#### *Public Wells.*

An examination of the supply from the public well at Ridgmont was made and it was found that some pollution was occurring, consequently the Council took steps to close it. An arrangement was made with the London & Devon Estates Co., for supplying the population in Station Road and Lidds Hill from the Estates mains.

Samples were taken for bacteriological examination from 15 private wells with the following results :—

Good—6.

Unfit for drinking purposes, 9.

#### *Borehole Proposed for National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe.*

Notice was received of the intention of a Government department to sink a bore tube in the Silsoe area which area is covered by the provisions of Section 14 of the Water Act, 1945.

The Council considered this in conjunction with the report of their consultants and it was decided to oppose the proposal on the grounds that any water required in this area could be supplied from the Council's new source as and when this was required.

Various meetings were arranged and it has been agreed that the supply required shall be taken from the Council's supply mains.

#### *Extensions.*

The following extensions to the water supply mains have been carried out during the year :—

Marston, 718 yards ; Harlington, 140 yards ; Houghton Conquest, 233 yards.



PARTICULARS OF NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES AND  
POPULATION WITH PIPED SUPPLY.

	Estimated Population 1948	No. of Houses	Houses with water direct	Served by standpipe on private supply	Served by public standpipe (spring)	Percentage served to premises	Percent- age supplied by standpipe
Aspley Guise ..	1430	460	450			98	
Aspley Heath ..	430	130	127			98	
Battlesden ..	70	20	1			5	
Clophill .. ..	950	279	156			56	
Cranfield .. ..	1950	505	413			82	
Eversholt ..	460	161	126			78	
Flitton .. ..	620	183	125			68	
Flitwick .. ..	2250	744	560			75	
Gravenhurst ..	430	128	93			73	
Harlington ..	610	206	177			86	
Haynes .. ..	720	263	255			97	
Higham Gobion	40	8	0			0	
Hulcote & Salford	250	68	50			74	
Houghton Conquest	560	181	161			89	
Husborne Crawley	360	114	14	80		12	70
Lidlington ..	750	232	87		145	36	63
Marston Moretaine	1500	487	468			96	
Maulden ..	1650	470	326			69	
Millbrook ..	200	48	38			79	
Milton Bryan ..	175	53	0			0	
Pottesgrove ..	100	26	0	12		0	46
Pulloxhill ..	370	132	86			65	
Ridgmont (including Brogboro')	920	249	112	100		45	40
Shillington (including Lower Stondon)..	2150	695	565			81	
Silsoe .. ..	650	165	136			82	
Steppingley ..	250	65	53			66	
Tingrith .. ..	175	47	26			74	
Westoning ..	650	240	173			72	
Woburn .. ..	950	280	275			98	
TOTALS ..	21620	6639	5051	192	145	76	5

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Public Enquiry into Scheme No. 1 was held in November, 1946, and the Council was notified that tenders may be obtained after 31st March, 1949.

The Scheme Covers Flitwick, Westoning and Harlington.

Preliminary work on Scheme No. 2 embracing Maulden, Clophill, Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill has been continued, and the Council's Engineering Consultants are going into the question of sewerage the remaining 18 parishes.

At present three parishes have sewerage and sewage disposal works, namely, Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn.



The two former are combined with Woburn Sands of the Newport Pagnell R.D.C., in the County of Buckingham, and the works are operated by the Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath & Woburn Sands Joint Committee. Certain works are necessary to make the plant adequate for present needs. The Committee's Consultants have submitted a report, and an application has been lodged for loan sanction for carrying out the work.

Sewers were laid on the new estates and small Sewage Disposal Plants were installed and in each case separate sewers were provided to deal with storm water.

Up to the end of the year 1,674 yards of soil sewer and 1,805 yards of storm water sewer of various sizes were laid.

In addition three additional small sewage plants were constructed.

### 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been necessary.

### 4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the parishes without sewers, the larger houses have water closets discharging into cesspools. In all other cases, with very few exceptions, the cottages have earth closets. The exceptions are privy type closets, which by reason of their isolated position or for other reasons have not yet been converted.

In Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath and Woburn, the houses have water closets, except for outlying properties, and four cottages in Aspley Guise which have earth closets.

All houses on the new Council Estates have water closets, and where there are no sewers, small disposal works or cesspools have been provided.

### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

At Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick, Harlington, Westoning and Woburn, the fortnightly collection of house refuse has been continued. In all other parishes a visit was made at approximately quarterly intervals for the collection of indestructible refuse.

The work was carried out by direct labour with motor vehicles. Tipping on three tips was controlled, and the Council had a Contract for the destruction of rats with the Agricultural Executive Committee. Flies are kept down by tip dressing.

The emptying of closet pails was continued in the 8 parishes of Flitwick, Westoning, Harlington, Lidlington, Clophill, Maulden, Milton Bryan and Eversholt; the service was also extended to Flitton, Pulloxhill, Ridgmont, Tingrith and Silsoe, thus thirteen parishes are now covered by the system, three have a full sewerage service, leaving thirteen parishes to be dealt with. These are added in order of greatest necessity, as labour and vehicles become available.

On the light soil some farmers and market gardeners are prepared to find the straw to form lagoons onto which night soil and cesspool content are discharged. When rotted, this compost forms useful manure, but on the heavy clay soils very few farmers will co-operate.

Four vacuum tank motor emptiers are operated by Council's labour, and delivery of two additional vehicles is awaited. Suitable labour for this type of work is still not easy to obtain.

In October, the Council considered a report on the arrangements for the collection of refuse throughout the district with a view to augmenting the service and in this con-

nection a report was drawn up to cover a collection of household refuse on a fortnightly basis throughout the whole of the Council's district.

Following the Council's instructions two additional vehicles were purchased and it is hoped to augment the service when the labour position becomes easier.

## 6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a Summary of Sanitary and other Defects reported on during the year :—

Premises with Defective and Insanitary Closets	..	..	24
" " " " " Drains	..	..	57
" " " " " Cesspools	..	..	2
" " " " " Roofs, Chimneys and Spouting	..	..	70
" " " " " Walls and Ceilings	..	..	71
" " " " " Windows, Insufficient Light and Ventilation	..	..	35
" " " " " Water Supply	..	..	6
" " " " " Ashbins	..	..	20
Dirty Premises	..	..	3
Damp Premises	..	..	75
Overcrowded Dwellings	..	..	31
Other Dilapidations	..	..	46
Unsound Meat and Foods	..	..	16
Nuisance from Rats	..	..	1
Samples of Water taken for Bacteriological Examination	..	..	19
" " " " " Chemical Analysis	..	..	1
Rooms Disinfected after Scarlet Fever	..	..	13 Rooms
" " " " " Diphtheria	..	..	5 "
" " " " " Cancer	..	..	7 "
" " " " " Tuberculosis	..	..	1 "
" " " " " Other diseases	..	..	2 "
Houses Disinfested (Bed-bugs, Lice, etc.)	..	..	1
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	30
" " Informal Notices served	..	..	198
" " Defective Premises	..	..	206

## 7. SHOPS AND PREMISES.

Sanitary conveniences for the use of assistants are provided at all shops, with the exception of five lock-up premises, the occupiers of which hold certificates of exemption under Section 10/2 and (6) of the Shops Act, 1934, suitable conveniences being available within a reasonable distance.

Ventilation and heating of shops were found to be satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take action under Circular 1600 with regard to offices.

## 8. CAMPING SITES.

- (1) The number of sites used in 1948 was .. .. . 20
- (2) " " " licensed under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936 was .. .. . 6
- (3) The Estimated number of campers resident in the area during the season was .. .. . 50

## 9. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary.

## 10. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

### (a) *Public.*

There are no pools owned by the Local Authority.

### (b) *Privately owned and open to the public.*

There are three baths, at Eversholt, Husborne Crawley and Woburn, privately owned by the Duke of Bedford. The first mentioned is fed from a lake, the water being changed at intervals, and chlorinated by spraying the surface and agitating the water. Three samples taken for bacteriological examination showed coliform bacilli present. The management is in the hands of the Parish Council.

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY.—This Bath is fed from the private Husborne Crawley Water supply, and the water is completely changed at fortnightly periods. At intermediate intervals water flows in at low levels, allowing floating debris and leaves to pass out through the overflow.

At the week-end the water is chlorinated, and on alternate days during the week, half the dosage of chlorine is added to the water.

WOBURN.—A similar Bath to the last mentioned; it is filled from the main water supply, chlorinated by hand as described previously, and the water changed periodically.

These baths are used by the Parishioners, and are also being utilised by the Education Authority for imparting swimming instruction to School children. Motor Coaches convey the children from the village schools to the baths during the summer term.

It was chiefly on this account that the bacteriological examinations were made; further samples will be taken when it is hoped that better results will be seen.

### *Private Swimming Pools.*

Two private schools—Hawnes School, Haynes Park, for girls, and the Knoll School, Aspley Heath, for boys—have pools for the use of scholars. The former is fed from a natural spring, giving a continuous flow. The latter is filled from the Council's mains and is periodically emptied and cleansed.

## 11. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. (a) No Council Houses were found to be infested.

(b) (i) One other house was infested and  
(ii) disinfested by the Council.

2. Disinfestation was carried out by spraying with "Zaldecide" containing D.D.T.

3. To ensure that belongings of a prospective tenant are free from vermin an inspection is made before removal to a Council house.

4. Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

5. To prevent re-infestation after cleansing, premises are re-inspected and the tenants advised and supervised.



## HOUSING

The owners of 70 houses had their attention drawn to the absence of information required by Statute in the Rent Books, the owners of 34 houses were supplied with the "permitted number" of occupants for inclusion in the rent books.

Twenty-three houses, accommodating 25 families, continued under requisition to the Council.

Three hundred and eleven new houses were completed and occupied, bringing the post war total to 441, and with the pre-war houses to 793.

### HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

Details with regard to the Rural Housing Survey continued, and the records of the 5,208 houses inspected proved very valuable when the Council were considering the respective merits of applicants for Council Houses.

Statutory Notices were served in respect of 28 premises under Section 93, and in regard to two premises under Section 39, Public Health Act 1936, also one under Sec. 9, Housing Act 1936.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) *Milk Supply.*

198 persons are on the Register including 7 retailers from premises outside the district ; 126 are wholesale cowkeepers and 72 retailers. Twenty of the latter keep no cows.

There were 3 new registrations and one gave up the trade.

One retailer is licensed to bottle and sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ; three are licensed to sell T.T. and Pasteurised Milk purchased in bottles, and one outside the district has a supplementary license to sell Pasteurised Milk in this District.

A total of 48 Producers are licensed to produce Specially Designated Milk, 31 Tuberculin Tested and 17 Accredited.

#### (b) *Meat and other foods.*

22½ lbs. beef, 13 lbs. mutton, 90 lbs. pork, 33 lbs. bacon, 4¼ lbs. offals, 1½ lbs. cheese, 12 lbs. flour, 1 bushel whelks, 6 tins meat, 15 tins fruit, 14 tins milk, 4 tins fish, 1 tin beans, 1 tin dried eggs, 2 tins syrup, 6 packets rusk, 2 packets scone mixture, were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Five new registrations for the sale of ice cream were made. One sample of ice cream for bacteriological examination gave a grade 1 result, and one a grade 2.

Seven new slaughtermen were licensed to slaughter and stun under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, and twenty licenses were renewed.

The license of one slaughterhouse was renewed.

## THE SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	Church of England or Council	No of Pupils on Roll	Average Attendance	Type of Closet	Boys	Girls	Infants	Disposal of Excreta	Drinking Water
Aspley Guise .....	Council	65	58	w.c.	2	3	1	Sewer	Main
Aspley Heath .....	Council	336	296	"	3	5	3	Sewer	Main
Clophill .....	C. of E.	59	52	E.C.	4	5	2	Removed weekly	Main
Cranfield .....	C. of E.	184	164	"	5	6	0	Buried twice weekly	Main
Eversholt .....	Council	35	31	"	2	2	1	3 times weekly	Main
Flitwick (Mixed) .....	Council	184	162	w.c.	3	6	0	Removed twice weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Flitwick (Infants) ....	Council	72	57	E.C.			4	Removed twice weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Gravenhurst (Junior and Infants)	Council	36	30	"	1	2	1	Pails emptied twice weekly	Main
Greenfield .....	C. of E.	61	53	"	2	3	0	Removed twice weekly	Main
Harlington .....	Council	46	41	"	3	3	2	Removed weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Haynes .....	Council	56	52	"	2	2	1	Earth Drying System twice weekly	Main
Houghton Conquest ..	Council	41	38	"	3	3	2	Earth Drying System Removed weekly	Main
Husborne Crawley ..	Council	12	12	"	2	2	0	Buried 3 times weekly	Main
Lidlington .....	Council	62	57	"	2	4		Removed weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Lower Stondon .....	Council	87	76	"	2	2	2	Earth Drying System 3 times weekly	Main
Marston Mortaine ..	Council	91	82	"	2	2	0	Removed twice weekly	Main
Marston Shelton ....	Council	50	47	"	2	3		Removed once weekly	Main
Maulden .....	Council	209	185	"	3	3	3	Earth Drying System twice weekly	Main
Millbrook .....	Council	14	13	"	1	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Milton Bryan .....	C. of E.	12	11	"	2	1	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Pulloxhill .....	C. of E.	15	13	"	1	2		Removed daily	Main
Ridgmont .....	Council	90	76	"	2	3		Removed 3 times weekly	Main
Salford & Hulcote ..	C. of E.	16	15	"	2	2		Removed weekly	Main
Shillington .....	Council	84	74	"	1	2	1	Earth Drying System twice weekly	Main
Silsoe .....	C. of E.	54	48	"	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Main
Steppingley .....	Council	17	15	"	2	2	1	Buried weekly	Main
Westoning .....	Council	86	79	"	3	3	2	Removed weekly by Local Auth.	Main
Woburn .....	Council	50	45	w.c.	2	2	1	Sewer	Main

SCHOOL CLOSURES. It was not necessary to close any of the schools during the year for health reasons.



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The Steppingley Isolation Hospital receives cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and other diseases in an emergency, from your district, and from the Urban District of Amptill.

On 5th July, 1948, under the National Health Service Act 1946, the Hospital became the property of the Minister of Health.

The present policy of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to Hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that Scarlet Fever and Measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

### ADMISSIONS TO STEPPINGLEY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Other Diseases	
	Amptill R.D.	Other Districts.	Amptill R.D.	Other Districts.	Amptill R.D.	Other Districts.
Patients in Hospital, January 1st, 1948 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Admissions during the year	3	—	2	—	1	—
Discharges ..	4	—	2	—	1	—
Patients in Hospital, December 31st, 1948	—	—	—	—	—	—

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

*Small Pox.*—No cases have been notified.

*Scarlet Fever.*—Ten cases, as compared with fifty-eight in the previous year, were notified, seven of whom were removed and treated in the Isolation Hospital either at Oakley, Spittlesea or Steppingley. The parishes showing the highest incidence were Aspley Guise, Clophill, Cranfield. All cases recovered.

*Diphtheria.*—Three cases were notified. Two of the cases were brother and sister. All were adults and recovered satisfactorily.

*Pneumonia.*—Five Cases have been notified and 3 deaths were registered.

*Erysipelas.*—Five cases were notified.

*Measles.*—There were 97 cases notified as compared with 128 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

*Whooping Cough.*—37 cases were notified, all of which recovered.

*Cerebo Spinal Fever.*—No cases have been notified.

*Dysentery*.—No cases have been notified.

*Jaundice*.—One case was notified.

*Infantile Paralysis*.—No cases have been notified.

*Puerperal Pyrexia*.—Two cases were notified, both recovering.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum*.—One case was notified.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Dysentery	Jaundice	Polio-myelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Total Cases Notified	10	4*	5	5	97	37	2	0	0	1	0	1
Cases admitted to hospital	7	4*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Deaths —	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases under 1 year —	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths „ „ —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases from 1 to 2 years	..	..	..	..	8	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 2 „ 3 „	..	..	..	..	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 3 „ 4 „	1	..	..	..	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 4 „ 5 „	..	..	..	..	10	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 5 „ 10 „	7	..	..	..	56	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 10 „ 15 „	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 15 „ 20 „	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 20 „ 35 „	..	2	3	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 35 „ 45 „	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases „ 45 „ 65 „	..	1*	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cases 65 & upwards —	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths „ „ —	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

\*One of which diagnosis was revised to Tonsillitis.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

VILLAGES.	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Erysipelas	Malaria	Whooping Cough	Jaundice	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Aspley Guise -	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..
Aspley Heath -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Brogborough -	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	15	..	..	..
Clophill -	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cranfield -	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	23	..	2	..	..	..
Flitton -	..	..	3*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flitwick -	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	20	..	..	1
Gravenhurst -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..
Greenfield -	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Harlington -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Henlow -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Houghton Conquest -	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hulcote -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Husborne Crawley -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Lidlington -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Lower Stondon -	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Marston -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	2	..	..	..
Maulden -	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Millbrook -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..
Pegsdon -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulloxhill -	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ridgmont -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..
Salford -	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shillington -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Silsoe -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Steppingley -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Westoning -	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Woburn -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
Woburn Sands -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Total ..	10	2	4*	5	0	5	0	37	1	97	0	0	1

\*One of which was re-diagnosed Tonsillitis.

## TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES &amp; MORTALITY.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 year to 5 years ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
5 years to 10 years ..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..
10 " 15 "	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
15 " 20 "	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 " 25 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 " 35 "	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
35 " 45 "	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..
45 " 55 "	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55 " 65 "	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 " and over ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	9	9	1	2	2	1	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES &amp; MORTALITY.

Villages.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Aspley Guise ..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
Aspley Heath ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Brogborough ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clophill ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flitton ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flitwick ..	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Houghton Conquest ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lidlington ..	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Milbrook..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tingrith ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westoning ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Woburn ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total..	9	9	1	2	2	1	0	0



## ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

With the coming into force of the National Service Act 1946 on 5th July of this year, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

Table 1 below gives the numbers in age groups of children who received treatment during the first half-year.

## 1. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE, 1948.

Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) in the above six Months.		Total number of children who were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection (i.e. subsequent to complete full course).	
Age at date of Final Injection.		Total.	During 6 months ending 30th June, 1948.
Under 5	5 to 14		
157	10	167	13

## 2. DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

For the Six Months ending 30th June, 1948.

Age at date of Notification	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1			Under 1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5-9			5-9		
10-14			10-14		
TOTALS	0	0	TOTALS	0	0



## CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

*Scabies.*

By arrangements with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at the cost of 2/- per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review 9 treatments were given.

## CANCER.

44 deaths were registered, 17 males and 27 females. They are tabulated as follows :

*Males—*

- 2 cases of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus, aged 61, 85.
- 3   "   " Stomach and Duodenum, aged 69, 75, 90.
- 12   "   " All other sites, aged 37, 51, 57, 61, 66, 69, 72, 74, 76, 77, 78, 83.

*Females—*

- 6 cases of Uterus, aged 37, 37, 45, 66, 70, 77.
- 1   "   " Stomach and Duodenum, aged 59.
- 2   "   " Breast, aged 67, 71.
- 18   "   " All other sites, aged 35, 44, 49, 51, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 66, 70,  
72, 73, 78, 81, 86, 87.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 176. This is undertaken by the County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925,  
and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

No necessity for action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

One tuberculosis case that died had not been notified, therefore the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is  $1/3$ .

# Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

A	Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	10	5	—	—
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	55	31	3	—
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises) ..	11	11	—	—
TOTAL ..		76	47	3	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ..					
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..					
(c) Not separate for sexes ..					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
TOTAL ..	3	3	—	—	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

### OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		Prosecutions
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ..	16	—	—	—	—	—

